



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 542
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 14
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
5000
CO
19 May 17

POLICY LETTER 4-17

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Attack Squadron 542
To: All Hands, Marine Attack Squadron 542

Subj: COMMANDING OFFICER'S SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY

Ref: (a) MCO 1752.5B

1. Sexual assault is a crime that is completely incompatible with our core values of honor, courage and commitment. It is an affront to the basic American principles we defend and goes against everything we claim to be as Marines.
2. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force or abuse of authority; or when the victim does not or cannot consent.
3. Marine Corps Order 1752.5B codifies the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program for the Marine Corps. The goal of the SAPR program is to eliminate sexual assault from the Marine Corps; however, the SAPR program also exists to provide education and training, response capability, victim support, reporting procedures, and offender accountability.
4. Leaders within VMA-542 shall engage with their Marines with open and honest discussion on sexual assault; speak to your Marines on ways we can prevent sexual assault. If an assault occurs, we will treat victims with the dignity and respect they deserve. Members of this Command are expected to take corrective actions when they witness a sexual assault, or when they witness behavior indicative of intent to commit a sexual assault. Witnesses and victims will be protected from reprisal. Those that attempt to take reprisal action against witnesses and victims will be investigated and then held accountable via appropriate administrative and/or punitive action. Conversely, personnel that take corrective actions before a crime is committed will be recognized publically, as this is the type of behavior that we must positively reinforce.
5. Victims of sexual assault are encouraged to come forward and make either an Unrestricted or Restricted Report. In either case, victims will be afforded all protections delineated in MCO 1752.5B, and I charge the Uniform Victim Advocates to ensure that this happens. Additionally, incidents or indications of sexual assault will be thoroughly investigated, and substantiated occurrences will be adjudicated via appropriate legal protocol.


S. M. SCHREIBER